

Non-govt teachers want separate pay scale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called on the government to introducing a separate pay scale for non-government teachers in order to improve quality education by attracting meritorious individuals in the teaching profession.

The caretaker government should also allow teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas to participate in the upcoming local government elections, they added.

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE), a platform of eleven teachers' organisations, organised the roundtable on 'Education, National Budget and Ban on Teachers' Participation in Local Government Election' at the National Press Club in the city.

The speakers criticised the government for allocating inadequate funds in the education sector, breaking all the previous records.

Chief Coordinator of NFTE Prof Quazi Farruque Ahmed said the government allocates less than Tk 112 crore in the education sector against the last fiscal year.

"Traditionally, education sector gets priority in the budget. Last year the allocation for education sector was 14.19 percent of the total budget, while this year the sector gets only Tk 12.26 percent," he added.

Farruque further said, "Why does the government impose ban

on non-government teachers' participation in the local government elections? We will agree with the decision if we get similar salary and other facilities the government teachers enjoy."

Former education minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam said a separate pay scale should be introduced for teachers so that meritorious students become eager to enter the teaching profession.

Education and Human Development Secretary of Awami League Nurul Islam Nahid said this year education sector is the most neglected one in the proposed national budget for fiscal

2008-09.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) former president AAMS Arefin Siddique said the government should immediately withdraw the ban on non-government teachers' participation in the upcoming local body elections.

Former state minister for education Nital Roy Chowdhury, Workers' Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Bimal Biswas, Communist Party of Bangladesh Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Joint Secretary Nazmul Haq Prodhan also spoke at the roundtable.



Prof Quazi Farruque Ahmed speaks at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

Professionals concerned over govt, EC's unilateral decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Peshajibi Samannoy Parishad, a platform of professional bodies, have expressed their deep concern over the unilateral decision of the government and Election Commission (EC) to hold the local body elections, bypassing opinions of the people, says a press release.

They feared that such steps might be complicated further and destabilised the ongoing situation.

The members at an emergency meeting of the co-conveners said, "This may further uncertain a free, fair and acceptable parliamentary election the government is committed and the people aspired for."

The meeting, held at the Dhaka University Hall on Tuesday eve-

ning, took a number of decisions regarding restoration of democracy and emergency power rules (EPR).

They urged the EC to refrain from holding the local body elections and demanded for an acceptable decision in this regard after taking into consideration all the democratic powers and organisations.

They also demanded the government to withdraw the state of emergency and the EPR without further delay to rescue the country from the ongoing crisis.

"The country is now passing through a crisis. In this situation, we call on all quarters, including the political parties, army and civil administrations and the judiciary, to play an active role."

The speakers said, "It is now inevitable to withdraw the emer-

gency for creating a congenial atmosphere in order to hold a free, fair and acceptable parliamentary election by December, the deadline set by the government.

Chaired by Convener of the parishad Chowdhury Khalequzzaman, they expressed the views that elections to different local bodies should be held as per the rules to be formulated by the Jatiya Sangsad under the constitutional provisions.

Co-convener Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, agriculturist Abdur Razzak Mia, Prof Rashid E Mahubub and MAKhteruzzaman, Principal Kazi Farook Ahmed, Member Secretary Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan and Office Secretary Principal Mohammad Ali Chowdhury also spoke.

Brac Bank short stay ward at ICDDR,B hospital

The temporary shed for treatment of the patients of Dhaka Hospital of ICDDR, B has been renovated with the assistance of Brac Bank Ltd and also renamed as Brac Bank Short Stay Ward, says a press release.

The shed now renovated with air conditioning system, new wash-rooms, hand-washing sinks, surrounding walls and upgraded floors and ceilings.

Muhammad A Rume Ali, chairman of Brac Bank, inaugurated the new stay ward at a ceremony yesterday.

Dr Alejandro Cravioto, executive director, ICDDR, B, AEA Muhaimen, managing director and chief executive officer of Brac Bank and Mark Pietroni, administrator, Dhaka Hospital were present during the ceremony.

Kamal Lohani's 75th anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 75th birth anniversary of Kamal Lohani, a veteran journalist and cultural personality, says a press release.

Born in the village Shantala under Ullahpara upazila in Sirajganj on June 26 in 1934, Kamal Lohani played a significant role in different sociopolitical and democratic movements, including the Language Movement and the liberation war.

He worked with Bangladesh Radio during the liberation war and was its first director.

Kamal Lohani was also the first president of Bangladesh Sangbadik Union, the director of Bangladesh Press Institute and the director general of the Shilpakala Academy.

He is still playing a leading role in the socio-cultural movement of the country to build a democratic and progressive society.

Int'l Children's Festival to be held in Dhaka this yr

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of three children's organisations called on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday to formally apprise him of the International Children's Festival to be held in Dhaka this year.

The objective of the International Children's Festival 2008 is to make the children and juvenile aware about the adverse impacts of climate change and the ways to offset the impacts.

The 13-member delegation comprising members from Kanchi Kanther Asar, USA, Kanchi Kanther Asar and Kanchi Kanther Foundation, Bangladesh, requested the chief adviser to inaugurate the festival.

The chief adviser thanked them for taking such an important initiative and choosing the topic, saying that adverse impacts of climate

change would affect the future generations severely.

As the delegation members sought government cooperation, Fakhruddin said he would ask the ministries concerned to look into the matter and extend their cooperation.

They also informed him that they want to launch a TV channel styled 'Kids Vision' in Bangladesh.

The delegation members include chairman of the International Children's Festival 2008 Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly, Prof Shaheda Obaid, Principal Hamida Ali, Syed Margub Morshed, Nurun-nabi Milon, Abdullah al Mamun, Mahnur Rahman, Rana Huq and Principal Raushanara Mannan.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim was also present.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimongal and lowest 25.5 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:14am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.2	27.2	72	62
Chittagong	32.8	26.2	68	81
Rajshahi	34.6	26.5	77	64
Khulna	33.5	27.0	72	69
Barisal	33.0	26.6	81	71
Sylhet	34.0	25.5	80	66
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.0	66	83

DU senate approves Tk 164 cr budget

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) Senate, the highest academic body of the university, yesterday approved a Tk 164 crore budget for 2008-09 fiscal with a deficit of Tk 12 crore.

DU Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam placed the budget at the two-day senate session at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building with Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the chair.

Of the total budget, Tk 135.90 crore will be available from University Grants Commission as government grant while the rest Tk 16.10 will be managed from the internal income of the university.

Tk 121.07 crore (73.82 percent of the total budget) will be spent for salary, pension and other allowances of teachers, officers and employees while only Tk 23.60 crore would be spent for academic sector and Tk 16.93 crore for general and miscellaneous work.

Of the total allocation in the academic sector, only Tk 2.13 crore (1.29 percent of the total budget) will be spent for research while Tk 1.86 crore for buying and publishing books and journals.

Prof Faiz, also the chairman of the senate, stressed the need for being economically self-dependent to avoid outside interference and enjoy full autonomous power in executing dynamic and progressive activities in the university.

He urged the affluent guardians to help maintain a rational tuition fees for their children to pave the way for more ultra-poor students to have the facilities of the university.

Earlier, the budget was placed in the finance committee on June 17 and was approved by the DU syndicate on the same day.

A revised budget of Tk 155.22 crore for 2007-08 fiscal was also approved at the session.

The 104-member senate body is currently running with 69 members. Of them, a total of 45 members took part in the session.

Of the 69, the tenure of 35 teachers' representative will end after this senate session, and then it will run with only 34 members.

'Allocate funds for introducing rationing system for RMG workers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded the government allocate funds in the proposed budget for launching a rationing system for the garment workers.

They also demanded healthcare centres for the workers at Dhaka, Chittagong, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Savar and Ashulia and ensuring a worker-friendly atmosphere in the industrial areas.

The demands also include transport system for the workers and setting up colonies for them.

They were speaking at a discussion on 'The proposed budget and expectations of garment workers' organised by National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF) at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium.

Justice Golam Rabbani was present at the discussion as the chief guest while NGWF President Sayeeda Sarker chaired the programme.

Convener of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Electricity and Port Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, Prof Nasrin Khandker of Dhaka University, Abdul Mazid Mallik, former director of Karitas Training Institute, Subul Sarkar, president of Bangladesh Landless Association, and Amirul Huq Amin, general secretary of NGWF also spoke.

Justice Golam Rahman said, "The owners of the garment factories are cashing on the labours and efforts of the workers, but the workers had long been deprived. Many workers don't even get their due salaries. Some even behave with them as if the workers were their slaves. Struggle should continue to build a society where the workers themselves can set up garment factories on their own," he said.

Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah said that the present government is a pro-capitalist one that doesn't pay heed to the demands of the working-class people.

Struggles should continue to realise their just demands, he added.

The NGWF leaders said that the government should have held pre-budget dialogues with the representatives of garment workers, as the government had sat with the leaders of FBCCI, BGMEA, BKMEA and other chambers of commerce and industries.

Criticising the budget speech delivered by the finance adviser, they said that the garment workers contribute to 76 percent of total exports, but the finance adviser in his address did not mention their contribution.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina talks to the leaders of US chapter of her party at a hotel near Orlando Airport in Florida yesterday. Hasina arrived in Florida for follow-up ear treatment. (Story on Page 1)

SQ Chowdhury admitted to BSMMUH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) yesterday as he fell sick during the trial of a corruption case against him.

Also, detained former state minister Lutfozzaman Babar fell sick in a special court during the trial of a bribery case yesterday.

SQ CHOWDHURY

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury was brought to a special court on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises by a prison van at around 10:30am from Kashimpur Jail in Gazipur to stand trial in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

But he felt chest pain while getting off the van. He was then taken to the court custody adjacent to the Special Court-5.

As SQ Chowdhury could not be produced at the Court-4 because of his illness, the court fixed June 29 as the next date for the trial. He was taken to the hospital at noon.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG-Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique told reporters that SQ Chowdhury was admitted to BSMMUH.

Chowdhury has long been suffering from cardiac ailments, he said, adding that this is the third time he was taken to BSMMUH.

BABAR

Lutfozzaman Babar was produced in the Special Court-3 at around 10:30am in connection with Tk 21 crore bribery case filed against him, detained BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman and six others.

But as he suddenly fell sick and started coughing, he was taken to the court custody at 10:55am and within a few minutes he was taken back to BSMMUH where he was undergoing treatment.

Trader stabbed to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Neighbours stabbed a 60-year-old furniture trader to death, and injured eight other members of his family including three women following a feud over land in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Alek Miah of Nalbhog at Purbapara under Turag Police Station.

The injured are Monwara Begum, 50, wife of Alek, his sons Monir Hosain, 20, and Anwar Hosain, 18, brother Ramjan Ali, 50, niece Rubina Akter, 25, sister-in-law Saleha Begum, 40, nephews Kamal Hosain, 18, and Ripon Hosain, 16.

Alek was rushed to Maulana Bhasani Medical College and Hospital in Uttara where the doctors declared him dead at 12:00 noon.

The injured were admitted to

Motorcycle hijacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of criminals took away a motorcycle after stabbing its owner at Katabon in the city last night.

The victim, Touhidul Islam, an employee of Grameenphone, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with stab injuries in the abdomen.

Sources said the incident took place somewhere between Kantaban and Elephant Road at around 10:00pm.

Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of New Market Police station, said the criminals stabbed Touhidul and took away the motorcycle when he was going towards Science Laboratory from Dhaka University area.

Maulana Bhasani Medical College and Hospital, Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital and other hospitals and clinics in Tongi.

Injured Ramjan told The Daily Star that at least 15 people including Abdus Sattar, Abdul Zabber, Razzak, Alauddin and Joinal, equipped with various sharp weapons, made the attack at around 10:30am.

"They stormed our house and stabbed us indiscriminately. We took shelter on the rooftop, but they reached there and killed my brother Alek and injured all of our family members," he said, adding, "Many of the attackers came in motorbikes and looted our valuables."

Ramjan said a case over their house has been under trial for about seven years.

Joinal Abedin, a neighbour and witness, said the attack continued for about half an hour, but none of the law-enforcers reached the spot during the attack.

Iqbal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Turag Police Station, said soon after the incident, police rushed to the spot but none of the attackers was found there.

"We have assigned three teams to nab the killers," he added.

Obituary

Tofazzal Hossain Mojumdar, father of Kamal Hossain Bablu, former organising secretary of Bangladesh Sports Journalists Community, passed away due to old age complications at Delta Medical College Hospital on Tuesday night at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind his four sons, two daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence (282, East Goran, Khilgaon) after Asr prayers tomorrow.

JP (Monju) to participate in local body polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP-Monju) at its presidium meeting yesterday took the decision to participate in the local body polls.

JP leaders, however, urged the government not to do anything so that holding of the national poll is hampered.

JP also finalised a seven-member delegation, led by its Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam, to sit with the government as part of the ongoing formal dialogue.

The presidium meeting was held at the JP's Lalmatia office in the city with its senior presidium member Abdur Rahim in the chair.

The meeting discussed about the present political and economic situation and also upcoming city corporation and poushava elections.

"It is important to hold the local body election but the polls would not be successful ignoring the political parties," Sheikh Shahidul Islam said, adding that this would rather create distance between the government and the parties.

The meeting discussed about the present political and economic situation and also upcoming city corporation and poushava elections.

Daffodil varsity opens real estate department

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Daffodil International University (DIU) yesterday opened a new subject in the name of the Department of Real Estate (DRE) with a view to catering the growing need of skilled manpower for real estate sector.

Other objectives of opening the subject include understanding of the role of real estate in the country's economy, real estate transaction, legal issues and bank and lease financing for real estate transaction.

Due to the rapid growth of real estate sector in the country, it is imperative to have skilled manpower especially for the sector and the new department will fulfill the needs, said DIU Board of Governors Chairman Sabur Khan at a launching ceremony in the city.

"As it will take four years to produce graduates from the department, we like to introduce some diploma courses on real estate to produce manpower for the sector immediately," he added.

Speaking as the chief guest, Rehab President Tanvirul Haque Probal said, "As Dhaka has almost no land for constructing new buildings, the graduates of the new department should take the preparation to work also outside the city."

DIU acting Vice Chancellor Mahbubul Haq Majumder and Prof Mizanur Rahman of the newly opened department also spoke at the function.

Today is the 27th death anniversary of Adiluddin Ahmed, former central minister of Pakistan and a founder member of Awami

League, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at House # 6, Road # 28 (old) Dhanmondi after Maghrib prayers today.

He was a member of the legislative assembly of East Pakistan and the constituent assembly of Pakistan. He was also elected member of the National Assembly of Pakistan in 1970.

A lawyer by profession, Adiluddin was the president of Faridpur district Awami League and a member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission.

Bangshi Shaha

Today is the 8th death anniversary of Bangshi Shaha, former president of Narayanganj Press Club, says a press release.

On the occasion, religious rituals will be performed and food will be distributed among the poor.

Narayanganj Press Club president and general secretary requested all to pray for the departed soul.

Ahmad Afroze Arib

Today is the first death anniversary of Ahmad Afroze Arib, son of Md Mohsinul Haque, additional chief judicial magistrate, Kurigram, says a press release.

To mark the day, a milad mahfil will be held at House No. 1-54, Kalitola Road, Naogaon, after Asr prayers.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Founder of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed Valerie A Taylor receives donations for the treatment and education of the children with disabilities from Managing Director of Eskayef AM Faruque in the city recently.

Eskayef stands by children with disabilities

Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd recently provided Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) with some donations for the treatment, education and development of the children with disabilities of CRP.

Managing Director of Eskayef AM Faruque handed over the grant to Founder of CRP Valerie A Taylor in the city recently.

Faruque said, "Children with disabilities are an integral part of our society. Proper nourishment can make them self-dependent so that they can explore their potential."

"We are happy to stand beside the children with disabilities of CRP."

Chairman of CRP Board of Trustees Maj Gen (ret'd) Dr Md Nurul Haque and Head of Marketing of Eskayef Dr Muhammad Mujahidul Islam were also present on the occasion.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Transparency International Bangladesh organises a roundtable discussion on corruption in water sector marking the TI global corruption report 2008 launching. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Workshop

Plan Bangladesh, WSSCC-B and CUP jointly organise a workshop on 'Improving water and environment sanitation for urban poor: Challenges and way forward'. Venue: LGED conference room. Time: 9:30am.

Memorial lecture

A memorial lecture, discussion and memorial award giving ceremony will be held on the occasion of the 14th death anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam. Venue: WVA auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Workshop

Brac University Ayesha Abed Library

Discussion

organises a workshop on 'Developing a digital institutional repository at Brac University: Experiences and challenges'. Venue: Room AH 103, Brac University. Time: 9:30am.

Fair

The inaugural ceremony of the two-day 2nd Bangladesh Electrical Products Fair 2008 will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Different anti-drug NGOs will jointly form a human chain marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Trafficking. Venue: In front of National Press Club. Time: 8:45am.

Fashion Exhibition

The opening ceremony of a fashion exhibition will be held. Venue: Drik Gallery. Time: 5:00pm.